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REPORT

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION FROM

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR - Estonia

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1949

SUBJECT Economic Wages

HOW
PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 13 Mar 1950

WHERE
PUBLISHED Zurich

NO. OF PAGES 1

DATE
PUBLISHED 20 Feb 1950

LANGUAGE German

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Die Tat.WORKERS' PURCHASING POWER DECLINES

According to reports of May and June 1949, workers of the "Punane" (Red) Krull Metal Plant in Tallin received an average monthly wage of 350 rubles. (Several specialists and skilled workers received 500-600 rubles per month. At the same time a kilogram of bread costs 3 rubles, a kilogram of butter 64 rubles, and a suit 800-1,400 rubles. Most workers claim that the wages they receive are too low to afford them clothing and adequate food. In addition, subscription to state loans, amounting up to one month wages, are frequently deducted. Furthermore, additional deductions are also made for trade unions, sickness insurance, and Communist newspapers.

The extent of the deterioration of the worker's position over the last few years can be judged from the following table of the purchasing power of a worker's monthly wage:

	<u>1939</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1949</u>
<u>Monthly Wage</u>	<u>100 Kroon</u>	<u>300 rubles</u>	<u>350 rubles</u>
Rye bread	1,500 kg	150 kg	110 kg
White bread	850 kg	70 kg	44 kg
Butter	60 kg	8 kg	6 kg
Pork	84 kg	10 kg	5.5 kg
Beef	114 kg	14 kg	10 kg
Potatoes	1,592 kg	100 kg	88 kg
Sugar	170 kg	30 kg	22 kg
Vodka (40%)	60 liters	8 liters	4 liters
Cigarettes	10,000	500	350
Shoes	8 pr	2.5 pr	2 pr
Suits	2	1 pr trousers	1 pr trousers
Winter overcoat	2	0.5	0.2
Shirts	12	5	3

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